

# CAPVT XVII

## The Relative Pronoun

### GRAMMATICA

#### THE RELATIVE PRONOUN

The **RELATIVE PRONOUN** *quī, quae, quod*, as common in Latin as its English equivalent *who/which/that*, ordinarily introduces a subordinate clause and refers back to some noun or pronoun known as its **ANTECEDENT**; the **RELATIVE CLAUSE** itself has an adjectival function, providing descriptive information about the antecedent (e.g., “the man who was from Italy” = “the Italian man”).

The forms of the relative pronoun are so diverse that the only practical procedure is to memorize them. However, the genitive and dative endings **cuius** and **cui** resemble **huius**/**huic** and **illius**/**illī**, and it is easy to identify the case, the number, and often the gender of most of the remaining forms, based on their similarity to various first, second, and third declension endings.

#### *Quī, Quae, Quod, who, which, that*

Singular			Plural		
M.	F.	N.	M.	F.	N.
quī	quae	quod	quī	quae	quae
cuius	cuius	cuius	quōrum	quārum	quōrum
cui	cui	cui	quībus	quībus	quībus
quem	quam	quod	quōs	quās	quae
quō	quā	quō	quībus	quībus	quībus

For the pronunciation of the **ui** in **cuius** (as if spelled *cui-yus*) and in **cui**, cf. **huius** and **huic** (Capvt IX) and see the *Intrōductiō*, p. xxxvii (listen to the CDs too, if you have them).

#### Usage and Agreement

Since the relative pronoun (from *referō, referre, rettulī, relātum*) refers to and is essentially equivalent to its antecedent (from *antecēdere, to go before*, since the

antecedent usually appears in a preceding clause), the two words naturally agree in number and gender; the case of the relative, however, like that of any noun or pronoun, is determined by its use within its own clause. The logic of this can be demonstrated by analyzing and translating the following sentence:

*The woman whom you are praising is wise.*

1. The main clause of the sentence reads: *The woman . . . is wise. Fēmina . . . est sapiēns.*
  2. *Whom* introduces a subordinate, relative clause modifying *woman*.
  3. *Woman* (*fēmina*) stands before the relative *whom* and is its antecedent.
  4. *Whom* has a double loyalty: (1) to its antecedent, *fēmina*, and (2) to the subordinate clause in which it stands.
- a. Since the antecedent, *fēmina*, is feminine and singular, *whom* in Latin will have to be feminine and singular.
  - b. Since in the subordinate clause *whom* is the direct object of *(you) are praising* (*laudās*), it must be in the accusative case in Latin.
  - c. Therefore, the Latin form must be *feminine* and *singular* and *accusative*: *quam*.

The complete sentence in Latin appears thus:

*Fēmina quam laudās est sapiēns.*

Again, succinctly, the rule is this: the *gender* and *number* of a relative are determined by its *antecedent*; its *case* is determined by its *use* in its own clause. Identify the gender, number, case, use, and antecedent of the relatives in the following sentences:

1. *Diligō puellam quae ex Italiā vēnit.* *I admire the girl who came from Italy.*
2. *Homō dē quō dicēbās est amīcus cārus.* *The man about whom you were speaking is a dear friend.*
3. *Puella cui librum dat est fortūnāta.* *The girl to whom he is giving the book is fortunate.*
4. *Puer cuius patrem iuvābāmus est fortis.* *The boy whose father we used to help is brave.*
5. *Vitam meam committam eīs virīs quōrum virtūtēs laudābās.* *I shall entrust my life to those men whose virtues you were praising.*
6. *Timeō idem perīculum quod timētis.* *I fear the same danger which you fear.*

In translating, be sure not to shift words from the relative clause into the main clause or vice versa; e.g., in the third sentence above, *puella* should not be mistaken as the subject of *dat*. Note that a relative clause is a self-contained unit, usually beginning with the relative pronoun and ending with the first verb you en-

counter (cui . . . dat in the third sample sentence); in complex sentences, like S.A. 3 below, you may find it helpful first to identify and actually even bracket the relative clause(s):

Multī cives aut ea pericula [quae imminēt] nōn vident aut ea [quae vident] negligunt.

As you read and translate such a sentence, translate the relative clause as soon as you have translated the relative pronouns antecedent (which very often, as here, precedes the relative pronoun immediately).

## VOCABULA

This list includes several common verbs: note the conjugation of each and remember the rule for -iō verbs, i.e., that you'll find the characteristic -i- in every single form of the three present system active indicative tenses. Coepi is an example of a DEFECTIVE VERB, i.e., a verb many or most of whose conjugational forms were rarely employed. Aut . . . aut will remind you of et . . . et; both are examples of CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTIONS. Practice recently introduced grammar with some of the new words; e.g., decline libellus levis and write out a synopsis of desiderō or deleō, checking your work with the paradigms in the Summārium Forumarum, p. 495-505.

libellus, libellī, m., *little book* (libel, libelous; diminutive of liber)  
 qui, quae, quod, rel. pron., *who, which, what, that* (qui vive, quorum)  
 caecus, caeca, caecum, *blind* (caecum, caecal, caecilian)  
 levis, leve, *light; easy; slight, trivial* (levity, lever, levy, levee, Levant, leaven, legger-demean, alleviate, elevate, relevant, irrelevant, relieve)  
 aut, conj., *or; aut . . . aut, either . . . or*  
 cito, adv., *quickly* (excite, incite, recte; cf. rectio, below)  
 quōque, adv., *also, too*  
 admittō, admittere, admisi, admissum, *to admit, receive, let in* (admission, admis-sible, inadmissible, admittedly)  
 coepi, coepisse, coeptum, *began*, defective verb used in the perf. system only; the pres. system is supplied by incipio (below).  
 cupio, cupere, cupivi, cupitum, *to desire, wish, long for* (Cupid, cupidity, concu-piscence, covet, covetous, Kewpie doll; cf. cupiditas)  
 deleō, delēre, delēvi, delētum, *to destroy, wipe out, erase* (delete, indelible)  
 desiderō, desiderāre, desideravi, desideratum, *to desire, long for, miss* (desiderate, desideratum, desiderative, desire, desirous)  
 incipio, incipere, incēpi, incēptum, *to begin* (incipient, inception; cf. capio)

nāvigō, nāvigāre, nāvigāvī, nāvigātum, *to sail, navigate* (navigation, navigable; cf. nauta)

néglegō, néglegere, néglēxī, néglectum, *to neglect, disregard* (negligent, negligee, negligible)

recitō, recitāre, recitāvī, recitātum, *to read aloud, recite* (recital, recitation, recitative)

## LĒCTIŌ ET TRĀNSLĀTIŌ

Reading and translating sentences that contain relative clauses (like the one you just this moment read: "that contain relative clauses") need not be difficult. Bracketing the clause as suggested in the preceding discussion of S.A. 3 below can help you avoid jumbling words from the subordinate clause into the main clause; practice with a few sentences in the Self-Tutorial Exercises. Watch out for look-alike **qu-** words like the adverb **quam** in Ex. 5 (which cannot be a relative pronoun because it has no antecedent), and the conjunction **quod**, *because*: when **quod** immediately follows a neuter singular word, it is nearly always the relative pronoun; when there is no apparent antecedent, it is more likely the conjunction. And, beware: as you'll see in the Martial epigram below, the antecedent does not always *antecede*!

## EXERCITĀTIONĒS

1. Potēns quoque est vīs artium, quae nōs semper alunt.
2. Miserōs hominēs, autem, sēcum iungere coeperant.
3. Nam illā aetāte pars populī in Italiā iūra civium numquam tenuit.
4. Incipimus vērītatem intellegere, quae mentēs nostrās semper regere dēbet et sine quā valēre nōn possumus.
5. Quam difficile est bona aut dulcia ex bellō trahere!
6. Centum ex virīs mortem diū timēbant et nihil clēmēntiae exspectābant.
7. Puer mātrem timēbat, quae eum saepe neglegēbat.
8. Inter omnia pericula fēmina fortis sē cum sapientiā gessit.
9. Itaque celer rūmor mortis ācris per ingentēs urbēs cucurrit.
10. Quoniam memoria factōrum nostrōrum dulcis est, beātī nunc sumus et se-nectūtem facilem agēmus.
11. Multī auditōrēs saturās ācrēs timēbant quās poēta recitābat.
12. They feared the powerful men whose city they were ruling by force.
13. We began to help those three pleasant women to whom we had given our friendship.
14. We fear that book with which he is beginning to destroy our liberty.

## SENTENTIAE ANTIQVAE

1. Salvē, bone amice, cui filium meum heri commisi. (Terence.)
2. Dionysius, de quō ante dixi, a Graecia ad Siciliam per tempestatem brevem sed potentem navigabat. (Cicero.—Sicilia, -ae, f., *Sicily*.)
3. Multi cives aut ea pericula quae imminēt nōn vident aut ea quae vident neg-  
legunt. (Cicero.—*imminēre, to impend, threaten*; “imminence,” “imminent.”)
4. Bis dat qui cito dat. (Publius Syrus.—bis, adv, twice; “biped,” “bipolar.”)
5. Qui coepit, dimidium facti habet. Incipe! (Horace.—*dimidium, -i, n., half*;  
“dimidiate.”)
6. Levis est fortuna: id cito reposcit quod dedit. (Publius Syrus.—*reposcō, -ere*,  
*to demand back*.)
7. Fortuna eum stultum facit quem nimium amat. (Publius Syrus.)
8. Nōn solum fortuna ipsa est caeca sed etiam eōs caecōs facit quōs semper adiu-  
vat. (Cicero.)
9. Bis vincit qui se vincit in victoria. (\*Publius Syrus.)
10. Simulatio delet veritatem, sine qua nomen amicitiae valere nōn potest. (Cicero.—  
*simulatio, -ōnis, f., pretense, insincerity*; “simulate,” “simulation.”)
11. Virtutem enim illius viri amavi, quae cum corpore nōn perit. (Cicero.—*perēō*,  
-ire, -ii, -itum, *to perish*; “perish,” “perishable.”)
12. Turbam vitā. Cum his vive qui te meliorem facere possunt; illos admitte quōs  
tū potes facere meliōres. (Seneca.—*melior, better*; “méliorate,” “améliorate.”)

## On the Pleasures of Love in Old Age

Estne amor in senectute? Voluptas enim minor est, sed minor quoque est cupiditas. Nihil autem est cura nobis, si non cupimus, et non caret is qui non desiderat. Adulēscētes nimis dēsiderant; senēs satis amoris saepe habent et multum sapien-  
tiaē. Cōgito, igitur, hoc tempus vitae esse iucundum.

Cicero *Sen.* 14.47–48: For Cicero’s *De Senectute*, see the notes to the two passages in Caput XV.—minor: *less*; “minority,” “minus.”—carere, *to lack, want*; “caret.”—is qui: a rel. pron. is often immediately preceded by a form of *is, ea, id* as antecedent; another com-  
mon example is *id quod, that which*.

QUESTIONS: What reason does Cicero offer for his view that the lessening of roman-  
tic passion that can accompany old age need not be a source of concern? Comment on the word order of the second sentence and how it neatly suits the nature of the argument.

## It’s All in the Delivery

Quem recitas meus est, o Fidentine, libellus;  
sed male cum recitas, incipit esse tuus!



A Reading from Homer, Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, 1885  
Philadelphia Museum of Art: The George W. Elkins Collection

\*Martial *Epig.* 1.38: In ancient Rome, poetry was performance and was meant first and foremost for a listening audience; proper delivery (*actiō*) and recitation (*recitātiō*) were skills taught in school, and *recitātiōnēs* were a favorite entertainment among educated Romans. Poets recited their own poetry, and sometimes their work was recited by others—not always to good effect, however. Juvenal complains about the city's *turba poētārum*, as we read in the previous chapter, and Martial here expresses his displeasure with Fidentinus, who has been reciting some of his epigrams, and *nōn bene!* Meter: elegiac couplet.—*libellus*: the delayed antecedent of *quem*; in prose the order might be *libellus quem recitās est meus*.—*male*, adv. of *malus*.—*cum*, conj., *when*.

**QVAESTIŌNĒS:** What does this epigram tell us about the consequences of poorly reciting a text?—what are some specific ways in which delivery can affect meaning? Comment specifically on the effect of positioning *meus* before the subject to which it refers in line 1 and then delaying *tuus* to the the poem's end.

### SCRĪPTA IN PARIETIBVS

Omnēs lūserō: sum Max(imus)!

